

Shropshire Libraries Reading Group List of Titles – June 2024

New additions to the list are marked as **NEW TITLE**

Chinua Achebe

Arrow of God (Classic). 231 pages.

Ezeulu, headstrong chief priest of the god Ulu, is worshipped by the six villages of Umuaro. But he is beginning to find his authority increasingly under threat - from his rivals in the tribe, from those in the white government and even from his own family. Yet he still feels he must be untouchable - surely he is an arrow in the bow of his God? Armed with this belief, he is prepared to lead his people, even if it means destruction and annihilation. Yet the people will not be so easily dominated.

Akala

Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire (Non-fiction). 342 pages.

From the first time he was stopped and searched as a child, to the day he realised his mum was white, to his first encounters with racist teachers - race and class have shaped Akala's life and outlook. In this book he takes his own experiences and widens them out to look at the social, historical, and political factors that have left us where we are today. Covering everything from the police, education, and identity to politics, sexual objectification and the far right, 'Natives' will speak directly to British denial and squeamishness when it comes to confronting issues of race and class that are at the heart of the legacy of Britain's racialised empire.

Rumaan Alam

Leave the World Behind (Thriller). 256 pages.

Amanda and Clay head to a remote corner of Long Island expecting a holiday: a quiet reprieve from life in New York City, quality time with their teenage son and daughter and a taste of the good life in the luxurious home they've rented for the week. But with a late-night knock on the door, the spell is broken. Ruth and G. H., an older couple who claim to own the home, have arrived there in a panic. These strangers say that a sudden power outage has swept the city, and - with nowhere else to turn - they have come to the country in search of shelter. But with the TV and internet down, and no phone service, the facts are unknowable. Should Amanda and Clay trust this couple - and vice versa? What has happened back in New York? Is the holiday home, isolated from civilisation, a truly safe place for their families? And are they safe from one another?

Naomi Alderman

The Power (Science fiction). 339 pages.

All over the world women are discovering they have the power. With a flick of the fingers they can inflict terrible pain - even death. Suddenly, every man on the planet finds they've lost control. Exploring the concepts of gender, hierarchy and power, *The Power* is an ingenious and masterfully crafted piece of feminist science fiction as well as a searing indictment of our contemporary world.

Waheed Arian

In the Wars (Non-fiction). 320 pages.

Born in war-torn Afghanistan, Waheed Arian's first memories are of bombs. His first-hand experience of the power of medicine inspired him to dedicate his life to healing others. But how does a boy with nothing hope to become a doctor? Fleeing the conflict with his family, he spent much of his childhood in refugee camps in Pakistan, living sometimes ten to a room without basic sanitation or access to education. Waheed largely taught himself, from textbooks bought from street-sellers, and learned English from the BBC World Service. Smuggled to the UK at fifteen with just a hundred dollars in his pocket, he found a job in a shop. He was advised to set his sights on becoming a taxi driver. But the boy from Kabul had bigger ambitions.

David Attenborough

Journeys to the Other Side of the World: further adventures of a young naturalist (Non-Fiction). 432 pages.

Following the success of the original Zoo Quest expeditions, in the late 1950s onwards the young David Attenborough embarked on further travels in a very different part of the world. From Madagascar and New Guinea to the Pacific Islands and the Northern Territory of Australia, he and his cameraman companion were aiming to record not just the wildlife, but the way of life of some of the indigenous people of these regions, whose traditions had never been encountered by most of the British public before.

Margaret Atwood

The Handmaid's Tale (Literary). 326 pages.

Offred is a Handmaid in The Republic of Gilead, a religious totalitarian state in what was formerly known as the United States. She is placed in the household of The Commander, Fred Waterford - her assigned name, Offred, means 'of Fred'. She has only one function: to breed. If Offred refuses to enter into sexual servitude to repopulate a devastated world, she will be hanged. Yet even a repressive state cannot eradicate hope and desire. As she recalls her pre-revolution life in flashbacks, Offred must navigate through the terrifying landscape of torture and persecution in the present day, and between two men upon which her future hangs.

Bolu Babalola

Love in Colour (Short stories). 304 pages.

Bolu Babalola takes the most beautiful love stories from history and mythology and rewrites them with incredible new detail and vivacity in her debut collection. Focusing on the magical folktales of West Africa, Babalola also reimagines iconic Greek myths, ancient legends from the Middle East, and stories from countries that no longer exist in our world. A celebration of romance in all of its forms.

Sebastian Barry

Days Without End (Literary). 301 pages.

After signing up for the US army in the 1850's, aged barely seventeen, Thomas McNulty and his brother-in-arms, John Cole, fight the Indian Wars and the Civil War. Having both fled terrible hardships, their days are now vivid and filled with wonder, despite the horrors they see and are complicit in. Then, when a young Indian girl crosses their path, the possibility of lasting happiness seems within reach if only they can survive.

Sara Baume

Spill, Simmer, Falter, Wither (Literary). 288 pages.

A misfit man finds a misfit dog. Both are accustomed to being alone, unloved, outcast - but they quickly find in each other a strange companionship of sorts. As spring turns to summer, their relationship grows and intensifies, until a savage act forces them to abandon the precarious life they'd established, and take to the road. Shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award.

Chloe Benjamin

The Immortalists (Literary). 448 pages.

It's 1969, and holed up in a grimy tenement building in New York's Lower East Side is a travelling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the date they will die. The four Gold children, too young for what they're about to hear, sneak out to learn their fortunes. Such prophecies could be dismissed as trickery and nonsense, yet the Golds bury theirs deep. Over the years that follow they attempt to ignore, embrace, cheat and defy the 'knowledge' given to them that day but it will shape the course of their lives forever.

Brit Bennett

The Vanishing Half (Literary). 384 pages.

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' story lines intersect?

Jonathan Bennett

Around the Coast in Eighty Waves (Non-fiction). 302 pages.

Living in an old, unheated T25 campervan for fourteen months, including the coldest winter for thirty years, Jonathan Bennett travelled clockwise round Britain, surfing every beach he could catch a wave. He shared the waves with seals, sewage and fellow surfers, meeting friendly and not-so-friendly locals, often alone and miles from civilisation. A warm and honest account of the cold, wet challenges of the surfer's path, eloquently capturing the highs and lows, the pain and ultimately the rewards of the journey.

Bernardine Bishop

The Street (Literary). 217 pages.

Filled with life and optimism and a wicked sense of comedy there's more going on in the Street than its inhabitants realise. A delightful, quirky and perceptive novel.

Amy Bloom

White Houses (Literary). 224 pages.

In 1933, President Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt took up residence in the White House. With them went the celebrated journalist Lorena Hickok - Hick to friends - a straight-talking reporter from South Dakota, whose passionate relationship with the idealistic, patrician First Lady would shape the rest of their lives. Told by the indomitable Hick, *White Houses* is the story of Eleanor and Hick's hidden love, and of Hick's unlikely journey from her dirt-poor childhood to the centre of privilege and power. Filled with fascinating back-room politics, the secrets and scandals of the era, and exploring the potency of enduring love, it is an imaginative tour-de-force from a writer of extraordinary and exuberant talent.

Will Boast

Daphne (Literary). 288 pages.

Daphne suffers from a rare medical condition; her body shuts down when she feels strong emotions. As a result she has built strong walls between herself and the world, avoiding passion, anger, disappointment and surprise. But when she meets Ollie, who seems to see through her armour, who seems to want to know the real Daphne, her carefully built defences begin to crumble.

Ulrich Alexander Boschwitz **NEW TITLE**

The Passenger (Historical). 266 pages.

Berlin, November 1938. With storm troopers battering against his door, Otto Silbermann must flee out the back of his own home. He emerges onto streets thrumming with violence: it is Kristallnacht, and synagogues are being burnt, Jews rounded up and their businesses destroyed. Turned away from establishments he had long patronised, betrayed by friends and colleagues, Otto finds his life as a respected businessman has dissolved overnight. Desperately trying to conceal his Jewish identity, he takes train after train across Germany in a race to escape this homeland that is no longer home. Twenty-three-year-old Ulrich Alexander Boschwitz wrote *The Passenger* at breakneck speed in 1938, fresh in the wake of the Kristallnacht pogroms, and his prose flies at the same pace.

Mary Lynn Bracht

White Chrysanthemum (Historical). 296 pages.

Hana and her little sister Emi are part of an island community of *haenyo*, women who make their living from diving deep into the sea off the southernmost tip of Korea. One day Hana sees a Japanese soldier heading for where Emi is guarding the day's catch on the beach. Her mother has told her again and again never to be caught alone with one. Terrified for her sister, Hana swims as hard as she can for the shore. So begins the story of two sisters suddenly and violently separated by war. Moving between Hana in 1943 and Emi as an old woman today, *White Chrysanthemum* takes us into a dark and devastating corner of history — and two women whose love for one another is strong enough to triumph over the evils of war.

Charlotte Bronte

Jane Eyre (Classic). 447 pages.

Charlotte Bronte's classic tale of a humble governess and her forbidden love for a married man is still a powerful and compelling book. Filmed 1944, 1996.

Anna Burns

Milkman (Literary). 368 pages.

In an unnamed city, middle sister stands out for the wrong reasons. She reads while walking, for one. And she has been taking French night classes downtown. So when a local paramilitary known as the milkman begins pursuing her, she suddenly becomes “interesting,” the last thing she ever wanted to be. Despite middle sister's attempts to avoid him—and to keep her mother from finding out about her maybe-boyfriend—rumours spread and the threat of violence lingers. *Milkman* is a story of the way inaction can have enormous repercussions, in a time when the wrong flag, wrong religion, or even a sunset can be subversive. Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2018.

Joanna Cannon

Three Things About Elsie (Literary). 496 pages.

84-year-old Florence has fallen in her flat at Cherry Tree Home for the Elderly. As she waits to be rescued, she considers the charming new resident who looks exactly like a man she once knew – a man who died sixty years ago. His arrival has stirred distant memories she and Elsie thought they'd laid to rest. Lying prone in the front room, Florence wonders if a terrible secret from her past is about to come to light

Brian Carter

A Black Fox Running (Literary). 400 pages.

This is the story of Wulfgar, the dark-furred fox of Dartmoor, and of his nemesis, Scoble the trapper, in the seasons leading up to the pitiless winter of 1947. As breathtaking in its descriptions of the natural world as it is perceptive in its portrayal of damaged humanity, it is both a portrait of place and a gripping story of survival.

Candice Carty-Williams

Queenie (Literary). 400 pages.

Queenie is a twenty-five-year-old Black woman living in south London, straddling Jamaican and British culture whilst slotting neatly into neither. She works at a national newspaper where she's constantly forced to compare herself to her white, middle-class peers, and beg to write about Black Lives Matter. After a messy break up from her long-term white boyfriend, Queenie finds herself seeking comfort in all the wrong places.

Clare Chambers **NEW TITLE**

Small Pleasures (Literary). 350 pages.

1957, the suburbs of south east London. Jean Swinney is a journalist on a local paper, trapped in a life of duty and disappointment from which there is no likelihood of escape. When a young woman, Gretchen Tilbury, contacts the paper to claim that her daughter is the result of a virgin birth, it is down to Jean to discover whether she is a miracle or a fraud. As the investigation turns her quiet life inside out, Jean is suddenly given an unexpected chance at friendship, love and - possibly - happiness. Longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2021.

Yangsze Choo

Night Tiger (Literary). 473 pages.

The Night Tiger explores the rich world of servants and masters, ancient superstition and modern ambition, sibling rivalry and unexpected love. Woven through with Chinese folklore and a tantalizing mystery.

Susanna Clarke

Piranesi (Fantasy). 273 pages.

Piranesi lives in the House. Perhaps he always has.

In his notebooks, day after day, he makes a clear and careful record of its wonders: the labyrinth of halls, the thousands upon thousands of statues, the tides that thunder up staircases, the clouds that move in slow procession through the upper halls. On Tuesdays and Fridays Piranesi sees his friend, the Other. At other times he brings tributes of food to the Dead. But mostly, he is alone.

Messages begin to appear, scratched out in chalk on the pavements. There is someone new in the House. But who are they and what do they want? Are they a friend or do they bring destruction and madness as the Other claims? Lost texts must be found; secrets must be uncovered. The world that Piranesi thought he knew is becoming strange and dangerous. Winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction 2021.

J. M. Coetzee

Disgrace (Literary). 220 pages.

After years teaching Romantic poetry at the Technical University of Cape Town, David Lurie, middle-aged and twice divorced, has an impulsive affair with a student. The affair sours; he is denounced and summoned before a committee of inquiry. Willing to admit his guilt, but refusing to yield to pressure to repent publicly, he resigns and retreats to his daughter Lucy's isolated smallholding. For a time, his daughter's influence and the natural rhythms of the farm promise to harmonise his discordant life. But the balance of power in the country is shifting. He and Lucy become victims of a savage and disturbing attack which brings into relief all the faultlines in their relationship. A Big Jubilee Read pick.

Matt Coyne **NEW TITLE**

Frank & Red (Literary). 432 pages.

Frank is a grumpy old curmudgeon. A recluse whose only company is the 'ghost' of his dead wife, Marcie. He is estranged from his friends, his son, and the ever-changing world beyond his front gate. And then Red moves in next door. Red is six. A boy struggling to adjust to the separation of his mum and dad, a new school, and the demonic school bully. Red is curious, smart, he never stops talking, and he's got a trampoline. From the moment Red's blonde mop appears over the top of the fence that divides their two gardens, the unlikeliest of friendships is born. A friendship that will change both of their lives forever.

Kelly Critcher

A Matter of Life and Death: Courage, compassion and the fight against coronavirus - a palliative care nurse's story (Non-fiction). 320 pages.

As a palliative care nurse, it is Kelly Critcher's job to look death in the eye - to save a patient while the fight can still be won, and confront life's end with grace and kindness when it can't. In early 2020, everything changed for nurses on the NHS front line. Working on Covid wards and the High Dependency Unit, Kelly spent the height of the coronavirus crisis at Northwick Park hospital - perhaps the UK hospital most deeply ravaged by the illness. She, and many others like her, battled tirelessly in a critical care unit pushed to breaking point, delivering the bad news and fighting the good fight, day-in, day-out, throughout the gravest test our health service has faced since its inception.

Charles Cumming

The Man Between (Thriller). 417 pages.

Successful novelist Kit Carradine has grown restless. So when British Intelligence invites him to enter the secret world of espionage, he willingly takes a leap into the unknown.

Kit finds himself in Morocco on the trail of Lara Bartok – a leading figure in Resurrection, a revolutionary movement whose brutal attacks on right-wing politicians have spread violence throughout the West.

Drawn to Lara, but caught between competing intelligence services who want her dead, Kit faces an awful choice: abandon her to her fate or risk everything trying to save her.

Abi Daré

The Girl with the Louding Voice (Literary). 289 pages.

I don't just want to be having any kind voice. I want a louding voice....At fourteen, Adunni dreams of getting an education and giving her family a more comfortable home in her small Nigerian village. Instead, Adunni's father sells her off to become the third wife of an old man. When tragedy strikes in her new home, Adunni flees to the wealthy enclaves of Lagos, where she becomes a house-girl to the cruel Big Madam, and prey to Big Madam's husband. But despite her situation continuously going from bad to worse, Adunni refuses to let herself be silenced. And one day, someone hears her.

Kit De Waal

My Name is Leon (Literary). 288 pages.

It's 1981, a year of riots and royal weddings. The Dukes of Hazzard is on TV. Curly Wurlys are in the shops. And trying to find a place in it all is nine-year-old Leon. He and his little brother Jake have gone to live with Maureen.

They've lost one home, but have they found another?

Maureen feeds and looks after them. She has wild red hair and mutters swearwords under her breath when she thinks they can't hear. She claims everything will be okay. But will they ever see their mother again? Who are the couple who secretly visit Jake? Between the street violence and the street parties, Leon must find a way to reunite his family.

Grace Dent **NEW TITLE**

Hungry (Non-Fiction). 292 pages.

Hungry traces Grace Dent's story from growing up eating beige food to becoming one of Britain's best-loved food writers. It's also everyone's story – from cheese and pineapple hedgehogs and treats with your nan, to the exquisite joy of a chip butty covered in vinegar and too much salt in the school canteen on a grey day. And the Cadbury's Fruit & Nut from a hospital vending machine that tells a loved one you really care.

Grace's snapshot of how we have lived, laughed and eaten over the past 40 years reveals the central role food plays in either bringing us together or driving us apart – from toasting a large glass of warm Merlot to grimly polishing off a wilted salad.

Charles Dickens

Great Expectations (Classic). 406 pages.

The stirring tale of Pip and his elevation from blacksmith's boy to gentleman must surely rank as one of Dickens' most enduring classics. Notably filmed by David Lean in 1946.

Sarah Duguid

Look at Me (Literary). 259 pages.

Lizzy's mother died two years ago, leaving a family bereft by her absence and a house still filled with her things. Then, one day, Lizzy finds a letter from a stranger to her father, and discovers he has another child. Lizzy invites her into their world in an act of outraged defiance. Almost immediately, she realises her mistake.

Daphne Du Maurier

Jamaica Inn (Classic). 320 pages.

After the death of her mother, Mary Yellan crosses the windswept Cornish moors to Jamaica Inn, the home of her Aunt Patience. There she finds Patience a changed woman, downtrodden by her domineering, vicious husband Joss Merlyn. The inn is a front for a lawless gang of criminals, and Mary is unwillingly dragged into their dangerous world of smuggling and murder. Before long she will be forced to cross her own moral line to save herself.

Gerald Durrell

My Family and Other Animals (Non-fiction). 301 pages.

Young Gerald Durrell always tried to avoid trouble in his attempts to study the wildlife of Corfu. But bringing a motley crew of snakes, scorpions, birds, bats and toads into the family villa, already full of squabbling siblings, was unlikely to ease tension around the dinner table. One of the great works of comic writing this is also a fascinating and evocative natural history of a British family abroad.

Lucy Easthope

When the Dust Settles: Searching for Hope after Disaster (Non-Fiction). 304 pages.

When a plane crashes, a bomb explodes, a city floods or a pandemic begins, Lucy Easthope's phone starts to ring...

Lucy is a world-leading authority on recovering from disaster. She holds governments to account, supports survivors and helps communities to rebuild. She has been at the centre of the most seismic events of the last few decades, advising on everything from the 2004 tsunami and the 7/7 bombings to the Grenfell fire and the war in Ukraine. Lucy's job is to pick up the pieces and get us ready for what comes next.

Lucy takes us behind the police tape to scenes of chaos, and into government briefing rooms where confusion can reign. She also looks back at the many losses and loves of her life and career, and tells us how we can all build back after disaster.

Reni Eddo-Lodge

Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race (Non-Fiction). 288 pages.

The book that sparked a national conversation. Exploring everything from eradicated black history to the inextricable link between class and race, *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* is the essential handbook for anyone who wants to understand race relations in Britain today.

Omar El Akkad

American War (Literary). 333 pages.

Sarat Chestnut, born in Louisiana, is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074. But even she knows that oil is outlawed, that Louisiana is half underwater, and that unmanned drones fill the sky. When her father is killed and her family is forced into Camp Patience for displaced persons, she begins to grow up shaped by her particular time and place. But not everyone at Camp Patience is who they claim to be. Eventually Sarat is befriended by a mysterious functionary, under whose influence she is turned into a deadly instrument of war. The decisions that she makes will have tremendous consequences not just for Sarat but for her family and her country, rippling through generations of strangers and kin alike..

Tan Twan Eng **NEW TITLE**

The House of Doors (Historical). 320 pages.

Willie Somerset Maugham is one of the greatest writers of the early twentieth century. But in 1921 he is beleaguered by an unhappy marriage, ill-health and business interests that have gone badly awry. He is also struggling to write. His friend Robert Hamlyn offers an escape in the Straits Settlements of Penang, where Robert's steely wife Lesley learns to see Willie as he is – a man who has no choice but to mask his true self.

As Willie prepares to leave, Lesley confides in him secrets of her own, including how she came to know the charismatic revolutionary Dr Sun Yat Sen. And more scandalous still, her connection to an Englishwoman charged with murder in the Kuala Lumpur courts – a tragedy drawn from fact, and worthy of fiction.

Bernardine Evaristo

Girl, Woman, Other (Literary). 464 pages.

From Newcastle to Cornwall, from the birth of the twentieth century to the teens of the twenty-first, *Girl, Woman, Other* follows a cast of twelve characters on their personal journeys through this country and the last hundred years. They're each looking for something - a shared past, an unexpected future, a place to call home, somewhere to fit in, a lover, a missed mother, a lost father, even just a touch of hope. Winner of the Booker Prize 2019.

Elena Ferrante

The Days of Abandonment (Literary). 192 pages.

A woman, abandoned by her husband with two young children to care for, finds herself literally trapped within the four walls of their high-rise apartment and is forced to confront her ghosts, the potential loss of her own identity and the possibility that life may never return to normal. From the author of the very popular Neapolitan novels.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great Gatsby (Classic). 177 pages.

A masterpiece, a dazzling social satire, and a milestone in twentieth century literature, *The Great Gatsby* peels away the layers of the glamorous twenties in the U.S. to display the coldness and cruelty at its heart.

Patrick Flanery

Absolution (Literary). 388 pages.

When a famous South African author agrees to cooperate in the writing of her biography, some unsavoury truths begin to emerge. The country's recent violent history is cleverly brought into focus in this confidently written debut novel.

C.A. Fletcher

A Boy and his Dog at the End of the World (Science Fiction). 365 pages.

My name's Griz. I've never been to school, I've never had friends, in my whole life I've not met enough people to play a game of football. My parents told me how crowded the world used to be, before all the people went away, but we were never lonely on our remote island. We had each other, and our dogs. Then the thief came. And he took everything...

Tom Fort **NEW TITLE**

Rivets, Trivets and Galvanised Buckets: Life in the village hardware shop (Non-Fiction). 352 pages.

In 2018 Tom Fort's daughter-in-law took over a century-old hardware shop. The family dreamed of developing the shop into one that would become the centre of village life; that much did come true, but not in the way they had expected.

Interweaving the evolution of the shop, its previous owners, the customers it serves and the items it sells, *Rivets, Trivets & Galvanised Buckets* offers a delightful study of community and shines a light on the eccentricities of ordinary people. Alongside, it presents a fascinating history of technological development; from who thought of screwdrivers to where the spirit level came from, who devised the process of galvanisation and what genius worked out that a suction pad on the end of a piece of wood could unblock sinks.

Essie Fox

The Last Days of Leda Grey (Historical). 273 pages.

When journalist Ed Peters unearths a dusty old photograph of the silent film actress Leda Grey, he is instantly enchanted by her alluring beauty. He discovers she is still living, in a decaying cliff-top house. And there, after a fifty-year silence, she's finally ready to share her haunting story. She tells of a volatile love affair, of obsession and jealousy, and the darkly glamorous world of early cinema. She tells of a world of secrets and lies, and of a past more sinister than any of the silent films that Leda Grey once starred in.

Dawn French

Because of You (Literary). 432 pages.

In the same hospital, two very different women give birth to two very similar daughters. Hope leaves with a beautiful baby girl. Anna leaves with empty arms. Seventeen years later, the gods who keep watch over broken-hearted mothers wreak mighty revenge, and the truth starts rolling, terrible and deep, toward them all. The power of mother-love will be tested to its limits. Perhaps beyond . . .

Esther Freud

Mr Mac and Me (Historical). 293 pages.

This tender and compelling story of unlikely friendship is a vivid portrait of a home front community during the First World War, and of a man who was one of the most brilliant and misunderstood artists of his generation.

Claire Fuller

Unsettled Ground (Thriller). 287 pages.

Twins Jeanie and Julius have always been different from other people. At 51 years old, they still live with their mother, Dot, in rural isolation and poverty. Inside the walls of their old cottage they make music, and in the garden they grow (and sometimes kill) everything they need for sustenance. But when Dot dies suddenly, threats to their livelihood start raining down. Jeanie and Julius would do anything to preserve their small sanctuary against the perils of the outside world, even as their mother's secrets begin to unravel, putting everything they thought they knew about their lives at stake. Winner of the Costa Novel Award 2021.

Patrick Gale

Take Nothing With You (Literary). 352 pages.

1970s Weston-Super-Mare and ten-year-old oddball Eustace, an only child, has life transformed by his mother's quixotic decision to sign him up for cello lessons. Music-making brings release for a boy who is discovering he is an emotional volcano. He laps up lessons from his young teacher, not noticing how her brand of glamour is casting a damaging spell over his frustrated and controlling mother. When he is enrolled in holiday courses in the Scottish borders, lessons in love, rejection and humility are added to daily practice.

Damon Galgut

The Promise (Historical). 293 pages.

On a farm outside Pretoria, the Swarts are gathering for Ma's funeral. The younger generation, Anton and Amor, detest everything the family stand for - not least their treatment of the black woman who has worked for them her whole life. Salome was to be given her own house, her own land...yet somehow, that vow is carefully ignored. As each decade passes, and the family assemble again, one question hovers over them. Can you ever escape the repercussions of a broken promise? Winner of the Booker Prize 2021.

Atul Gawande

Being Mortal (Non-fiction). 282 pages.

Atul Gawande examines his experiences as a surgeon, as he confronts the realities of ageing and dying in his patients and in his family, as well as the limits of what he can do. He emerges with a story that crosses the globe and history, exploring questions that range from the curious to the profound.

Lisa Genova

Inside the O'Briens (Literary). 339 pages.

Joe O'Brien is a Boston cop whose stamina and methodical mind have seen him through decades policing the city streets. When he starts making uncharacteristic errors, he attributes them to stress until, finally, he agrees to see a doctor and is handed a terrifying diagnosis: Huntington's disease. Not only is Joe's life changing beyond recognition, but each of his four grown children has a fifty-fifty chance of inheriting the disease. Observing her potential future play out in his escalating symptoms, his yoga teacher daughter wrestles with how to make the most of the here and now, and connect with her dad who is, inside, always an O'Brien.

Ruth Gilligan

Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan (Literary). 329 pages.

At the start of the twentieth century, a young girl and her family emigrate from the continent in search of a better life in America, only to pitch up in Ireland by mistake. In 1958, a mute boy locked away in a mental institution outside of Dublin forms an unlikely friendship with a man consumed by the story of the love he lost nearly two decades earlier. And in present-day London, an Irish journalist is forced to confront her conflicting notions of identity and family when her Jewish boyfriend asks her to make a true leap of faith. Spanning generations and braiding together three unforgettable voices, *Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan* shows us what it means to belong, and how storytelling can redeem us all.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

The Yellow Wallpaper and Selected Writings (Short stories). 366 pages.

Some people will know the disturbing short story 'The Yellow Wallpaper', but not so many will have discovered the other notable writings of this American pioneer of women's rights.

Lesley Glaister

Little Egypt (Literary). 311 pages.

Nonagenarian twins, Isis and Osiris, still live in the home they were born in, and from which in the 1920s their obsessive Egyptologist parents left them to search for the fabled tomb of Herihor a search from which they never returned. Isis and Osiris have stayed in the house, guarding a terrible secret, for all their long lives until chance meeting between Isis and young American anarchist Spike, sparks an unlikely friendship and proves a catalyst for change.

Peter Godfrey-Smith

Other Minds: The Octopus and the Evolution of Intelligent Life (Non-fiction). 276 pages.

How did the octopus, a solitary creature with little social life, become so smart? What is it like to have eight tentacles that are so packed with neurons that they virtually 'think for themselves'? By tracing the question of inner life back to its roots and comparing human beings with our most remarkable animal relatives, Godfrey-Smith casts crucial new light on the octopus mind – and on our own.

William Golding

Lord of the Flies (Classic). 225 pages.

A plane crashes on a desert island. The only survivors are a group of schoolboys. By day, they discover fantastic wildlife and dazzling beaches, learning to survive; at night, they are haunted by nightmares of a primitive beast.

Orphaned by society, it isn't long before their innocent childhood games devolve into a savage, murderous hunt...

Jessie Greengrass

Sight (Literary). 208 pages.

In Jessie Greengrass' superb debut novel, our unnamed narrator recounts her progress to motherhood, while remembering the death of her own mother ten years before, and the childhood summers she spent with her psychoanalyst grandmother.

Andrew Sean Greer

Less (Literary). 261 pages.

Arthur Less is a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the post: it is from an ex-boyfriend of nine years who is engaged to someone else. Arthur can't say yes - it would be too awkward; he can't say no - it would look like defeat. So, he begins to accept the invitations on his desk to half-baked literary events around the world. From France to India, Germany to Japan, Arthur almost falls in love, almost falls to his death, and puts miles between him and the plight he refuses to face. *Less* is a novel about mishaps, misunderstandings and the depths of the human heart. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2018.

Kate Grenville

Secret River (Historical). 349 pages.

London, 1806. William Thornhill, happily wedded to his childhood sweetheart Sal, is a waterman on the River Thames. Life is tough but bearable until William makes a mistake, a bad mistake for which he and his family are made to pay dearly.

His sentence: to be transported to New South Wales for the term of his natural life. Soon Thornhill, a man no better or worse than most, has to make the most difficult decision of his life.

Abdulrazak Gurnah

By the Sea (Literary). 256 pages.

On a late November afternoon Saleh Omar arrives at Gatwick Airport from Zanzibar, a far away island in the Indian Ocean. With him he has a small bag in which lies his most precious possession - a mahogany box containing incense. He used to own a furniture shop, have a house and be a husband and father. Now he is an asylum seeker from paradise; silence his only protection.

Meanwhile Latif Mahmud, someone intimately connected with Saleh's past, lives quietly alone in his London flat. When Saleh and Latif meet in an English seaside town, a story is unravelled. It is a story of love and betrayal, seduction and possession, and of a people desperately trying to find stability amidst the maelstrom of their times.

Yaa Gyasi

Homegoing (Historical). 300 pages.

Effia and Esi: two sisters with very different destinies. One sold into slavery; one a slave trader's wife. The consequences of their fate reverberate through the generations that follow: from the Gold Coast of Africa to the plantations of Mississippi; from the missionary schools of Ghana to the dive bars of Harlem. An intense, heart-breaking story of one family, and through their lives, the story of America itself.

Tessa Hadley

The Past (Literary). 368 pages.

Four siblings meet up in their grandparents' old house for three long, hot summer weeks. But under the idyllic surface lie shattering tensions. For anyone who cherishes Anne Tyler and Alice Munro.

Matt Haig

Midnight Library (Literary). 304 pages.

When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things are about to change.

Mohsin Hamid

Exit West (Literary). 228 pages.

In a city swollen by refugees but still mostly at peace, or at least not yet openly at war, Saeed and Nadia share a cup of coffee, and their story begins. It will be a love story but also a story about war and a world in crisis, about how we live now and how we might live tomorrow. Before too long, the time will come for Nadia and Saeed to leave their homeland. When the streets are no longer useable and all options are exhausted, this young couple will join the great outpouring of those fleeing a collapsing city.

Mohammed Hanif

Red Birds (Literary). 283 pages.

American pilot Major Ellie has crashed his plane in the middle of a desert. Lucky for him there's room for him at the very refugee camp he was supposed to bomb. Teenage Momo doesn't see it that way: the camp is a trap, not a refuge. His brother's missing, his parents are in a rage, and an aid worker won't stop trying to interview him for her book on the Teenage Muslim Mind.

Savage, irreverent and deliciously dark, *Red Birds* is a masterful unravelling of intertwined fates in a forgotten war-scape - and a brilliant satire about the absurdity of war and the impossibility of peace.

Georgina Harding

Land of the Living (Historical). 240 pages.

Charlie's experiences at the Battle of Kohima and the months he spent lost in the remote jungles of Nagaland during the Second World War are now history. Home and settled on a farm in Norfolk and newly married to Claire, he is one of the lucky survivors. Starting a family and working the land seem the best things a man can be doing.

But a chasm exists between them. Memories flood Charlie's mind; at night, on rain-slicked roads and misty mornings in the fields, the past can feel more real than the present. Though hidden even to himself, the darkest secrets of Charlie's adventures in the strange and shadowy ridges of the Nagaland mountains, his dream-like encounters with the mysterious and ancient tribesmen, leak and bleed through his consciousness. What should be said and what left unsaid? Is it possible to forge a new life in the wake of unfathomable horror?

Thomas Hardy

The Mayor of Casterbridge (Classic). 322 pages.

On a drunken impulse, Michael Henchard, a hay-trusser by trade, sells his wife Susan and their child to a sailor. Years later, Susan returns to Casterbridge a widow, to seek her legal husband who is, surprisingly, now the Mayor.

Jane Harris

Sugar Money (Historical). 437 pages.

Martinique, 1765, and brothers Emile and Lucien are charged by their French master, Father Cleophas, with a mission. They must return to Grenada, the island they once called home, and smuggle back the 42 slaves claimed by English invaders at the hospital plantation in Fort Royal. While Lucien, barely in his teens, sees the trip as a great adventure, the older and worldlier Emile has no illusions about the dangers they will face. But with no choice other than to obey Cleophas - and sensing the possibility, however remote, of finding his first love Celeste - he sets out with his brother on this 'reckless venture'.

Shelley Harris

Jubilee (Literary). 325 pages.

The year of the Jubilee. Amid the street party food, bunting, pop music and platform shoes tensions erupt in Cherry Gardens. Years later Satish must confront the truth about that day and the events that changed the course of his life.

L. P. Hartley

The Go-Between (Classic). 217 pages.

An invitation to a friend's house changes an adolescent boy's life. Discovering an old diary, Leo, now in his sixties, is drawn back to the hot summer of 1900 and his visit to Brandham Hall. The past comes to life as Leo recalls the events.

Samantha Harvey

Western Wind (Historical). 304 pages.

15th century Oakham, in Somerset; a tiny village cut off by a big river with no bridge. When a man is swept away by the river in the early hours of Shrove Saturday, an explanation has to be found: accident, suicide or murder? The village priest, John Reve, is privy to many secrets in his role as confessor. But will he be able to unravel what happened to the victim, Thomas Newman, the wealthiest, most capable and industrious man in the village? And what will happen if he can't?

Natalie Haynes

Stone Blind (Fantasy). 384 pages.

Medusa is the sole mortal in a family of gods. Growing up with her Gorgon sisters, she begins to realize that she is the only one who experiences change, the only one who can be hurt. When Poseidon commits an unforgiveable act against Medusa in the temple of Athene, the goddess takes her revenge where she can: on his victim. Medusa is changed forever – writhing snakes for hair and her gaze now turns any living creature to stone. She can look at nothing without destroying it. Desperate to protect her beloved sisters, Medusa condemns herself to a life of shadows. Until Perseus embarks upon a quest to fetch the head of a Gorgon . . .

Emma Hooper

Etta and Otto and Russell and James (Literary). 278 pages.

Etta's greatest unfulfilled wish is to see the sea and so, at the age of eighty-two, she gets up very early one morning, takes a rifle, some chocolate, and her best boots, and begins walking the 2,000 miles to water. The author is an Amazon Rising Star 2015.

Angela Hui

Takeaway (Non-Fiction). 352 pages.

Growing up in a Chinese takeaway in rural Wales, Angela Hui was made aware at a very young age of just how different she and her family were seen by her local community. From attacks on the shopfront (in other words, their home), to verbal abuse from customers, and confrontations that ended with her dad wielding the meat cleaver; life growing up in a takeaway was far from peaceful.

But alongside the strife, there was also beauty and joy in the rhythm of life in the takeaway and in being surrounded by the food of her home culture. Family dinners before service, research trips to Hong Kong, preparing for the weekend rush with her brothers - the takeaway is a hive of activity before a customer even places their order. A brilliantly warm and immersive memoir from someone on the other side of the counter.

Aldous Huxley

Brave New World (Classic). 288 pages.

Welcome to New London. Everybody is happy here. Our perfect society achieved peace and stability through the prohibition of monogamy, privacy, money, family and history itself. Now everyone belongs.

You can be happy too. All you need to do is take your Soma pills.

Discover the brave new world of Aldous Huxley's classic novel, written in 1932, which prophesied a society which expects maximum pleasure and accepts complete surveillance - no matter what the cost.

Kazuo Ishiguro

The Remains of the Day (Literary). 272 pages.

During the summer of 1956, Stevens, the aging butler of Darlington Hall embarks on a leisurely motoring holiday that will take him deep into the heart of the English countryside and thence into his past.

Jo Jackson

Beyond the Margin (Literary). 235 pages.

Is living on the edge of society a choice? Or is a choice a luxury of the fortunate? Joe, fighting drug addiction, runs until the sea halts his progress. Nuala, abandoned at five years old, for her survival means learning not to care. The intertwining of these lives makes a compelling story of dark and light, trauma, loss and second chances.

Jo Jackson

They Speak of Night (Literary). 268 pages.

Asadi fled India days before the Independence he fought for.

Lily, a student, had life to look forward to - until one weekend changed everything.

More than half a century separates the events that shape their lives.

How can an old man and a young woman help each other?

When Lily finds the courage to undertake what is asked of her, it has consequences neither of them could envisage.

This story crosses decades and continents, cultures and beliefs.

A thoughtful, uplifting novel by local author, Jo Jackson.

Jo Jackson

Too Loud a Silence (Literary). 205 pages.

It is 2011. Egypt is in the grip of the Arab Spring as journalist Maha Rhodes flies to Cairo. Born in Egypt but raised in England, Maha no longer knows who she is. Finding out becomes important. Events draw her into the political mayhem. She experiences the passion and violence of the revolution and is confronted by her own naivety.

Shirley Jackson

Dark Tales (Short Stories). 195 pages.

An ordinary commute turns into a nightmarish game of hide and seek, a loving wife hides homicidal thoughts and a concerned citizen might just be an infamous serial killer, in this collection of Shirley Jackson's deliciously dark tales. Here nothing is as it seems and nowhere is safe, from the city streets to the country manor, and from the small-town apartment to the dark, dark woods..

Jill Johnson **NEW TITLE**

Devil's Breath (Thriller). 304 pages.

Eustacia Rose is a Professor of Botanical Toxicology who lives alone in London with only her extensive collection of poisonous plants for company. She tends to her garden with meticulous care. Her life is quiet. Her schedule never changes. Until the day she hears a scream and the temptation to investigate proves irresistible.

Through her telescope, Professor Rose is drawn into the life of an extraordinarily beautiful neighbour, Simone, and nicknames the men who visit her after poisonous plants according to the toxic effect they have on Simone. But who are these four men? And why does Eustacia Rose recognise one of them?

Just as she preserves her secret garden, she feels inexplicably compelled to protect her neighbour, but Eustacia soon finds herself entangled in a far more complicated web than she could ever have imagined. When her precious garden is vandalised and someone close to Simone is murdered with a toxin derived from a rare poisonous plant, Eustacia becomes implicated in the crime.

Douglas Johnstone

The Space Between Us (Science Fiction). 300 pages.

When three people suffer strokes after seeing dazzling lights over Edinburgh, then awake completely recovered, they're convinced their ordeal is connected to the alien creature discovered on a nearby beach. An adrenaline-soaked, deeply humane, life-affirming first-contact novel.

Andy Jones

Four (Literary). 276 pages.

In the time they've known each other, Sally, Al and Mike have shared - well, almost everything. Sally and Al have been married for seven years, though now their relationship is hanging by a thread. Sally and Mike have been best friends since university. And on many occasions something more. Mike and Al have been friends and colleagues for many years. Yet with Al poised to become Mike's boss, their friendship comes under threat. And now there's Mike and Faye. They haven't been together long, but Mike's pretty sure that, this time, it's the real deal. As the three old friends sit on a train heading towards Brighton to meet Faye, little do they know that after this weekend, the four of them will have shared everything. They all know they have made a mistake. But they could never have imagined the consequences.

Wendy Jones

The Thoughts and Happenings of Wilfred Price (Literary). 263 pages.

After proposing on impulse, Wilfred Price soon realises his mistake, but finds himself unable to extricate himself from the nuptial rollercoaster he has set in motion. An endearing and nostalgic debut novel set in 1920s Wales.

James Joyce

Dubliners (Short stories). 368 pages.

Written before 1905 and nearly ten years in publication, this vibrant and graphic collection of stories depicting everyday life in Dublin represents James Joyce's first major work, and is considered by many to be his most accessible writing.

Rachel Joyce

The Music Shop (Literary). 368 pages.

This title tells the story about the triumph of a quiet hero and how music can bring us back to life. It is the exquisite and perfectly-pitched novel from the author of 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry', 'Perfect' and 'The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy'

N M Kelby

White Truffles in Winter (Historical). 313 pages.

This cleverly imagined novel explores the extraordinary talent and tangled love life of legendary French chef Auguste Escoffier, a man whose culinary creations were enjoyed by the great and the good.

Emma Kennedy

Letters from Brenda: My Mother's Lifetime of Secrets (Non-Fiction). 320 pages.

After Emma Kennedy's mother Brenda passed away, she found herself floundering, unable to make sense of the mysterious, charismatic but unpredictable woman who had been her mum.

And then she found Brenda's letters, forgotten for years in the attic. As Emma made her way through decades of correspondence, she started to piece together the fractured relationships and buried secrets that had left their indelible mark on Brenda. Finally, she allowed herself to ask the question she couldn't as a child: who, really, was her mother?

Hannah Kent

Good People (Literary). 380 pages.

Nóra Leahy has lost her daughter and her husband in the same year, and is now burdened with the care of her four-year-old grandson, Micheál. The boy cannot walk, or speak, and Nora, mistrustful of the tongues of gossips, has kept the child hidden from those who might see in his deformity evidence of otherworldly interference. Unable to care for the child alone, Nóra hires a fourteen-year-old servant girl, Mary, who soon hears the whispers in the valley about the blasted creature causing grief to fall upon the widow's house. Alone, hedged in by rumour, Mary and her mistress seek out the only person in the valley who might be able to help Micheál. For although her neighbours are wary of her, it is said that old Nance Roche has the knowledge. That she consorts with Them, the Good People. And that only she can return those whom they have taken...

Jess Kidd

Himself (Crime). 368 pages.

When Mahony returns to Mulderrig, a speck of a place on Ireland's west coast, he brings only his handsome face, a photograph of his too-young, long-lost mother, and a determination to do battle with the village's lies. Mahony also somehow wakes the dead from their graves, those folk who once lived here, with their foggy memories and hidden stories, floating greyly amongst the unseeing living. No one though - living or dead - will tell what happened to the teenage mother who abandoned him as a baby.

Affinity Konar

Mischling (Historical). 339 pages.

It's 1944 and twin sisters Pearl and Stasha arrive at Auschwitz. Torn away from their family, the girls are confined to the "Zoo", a ragtag collection of children selected for experimentation by the infamous Dr Josef Mengele. Their lives soon become a series of unspeakable horrors, lit up only by the friendships of the other children, and made bearable only because the two sisters have each other. When Pearl suddenly disappears from the camp, Stasha is devastated, but she survives by clinging to the hope that her twin might still be alive. As the war thunders to an end and Auschwitz is liberated, Stasha swears to find either her sister... or her revenge.

Rebecca F. Kuang **NEW TITLE**

Yellowface (Thriller). 336 pages.

When failed writer June Hayward witnesses her rival Athena Liu die in a freak accident, she sees her opportunity... and takes it.

So what if it means stealing Athena's final manuscript?

So what if it means 'borrowing' her identity?

And so what if the first lie is only the beginning...

Finally, June has the fame she always deserved. But someone is about to expose her...

What happens next is entirely everyone else's fault.

Milan Kundera

The Joke (Literary). 317 pages.

A silly prank in postwar Czechoslovakia lands popular student Ludvik in a work camp. Once released, he vows to get even with those who shopped him to the Communists. The darkly humorous first novel from this renowned author.

Rachel Kushner

Mars Room (Literary). 352 pages.

Romy Hall is starting two consecutive life sentences at Stanville Women's Correctional Facility. Her crime? The killing of her stalker. Inside awaits a world where women must hustle and fight for the bare essentials.

Outside: the San Francisco of her youth. The Mars Room strip club where she was once a dancer. Her seven-year-old son, Jackson.

As Romy forms friendships over liquor brewed in socks and stories shared through sewage pipes her future seems to unfurl in one long, unwavering line – until news from beyond the prison bars forces Romy to try and outrun her destiny.

Vanessa Lafaye

Summertime (Literary). 349 pages.

In the small town of Heron Key, where the relationships are as tangled as the mangrove roots in the swamp, everyone is preparing for the 4th of July barbecue, unaware that their world is about to change for ever.

Captures the racial and social tensions in southern America after the First World War.

Olivia Laing

The Lonely City (Non-fiction). 315 pages.

What does it mean to be lonely? How do we live, if we're not intimately engaged with another human being? How do we connect with other people? When Olivia Laing moved to New York City in her mid-thirties, she found herself inhabiting loneliness on a daily basis. Fascinated by the experience, she began to explore the lonely city by way of art.

Moving fluidly between works and lives, Laing conducts an electric, dazzling investigation into what it means to be alone, illuminating not only the causes of loneliness but also how it might be redeemed and embraced.

Nikita Lalwani **NEW TITLE**

You People (Literary). 232 pages.

The Pizzeria Vesuvio looks like any other Italian restaurant in London - with a few small differences. The chefs who make the pizza fiorentinas are Sri Lankan, and half the kitchen staff are illegal immigrants.

At the centre is Tuli, the restaurant's charismatic proprietor and resident Robin Hood, who promises to help anyone in need. Welsh nineteen-year-old Nia, haunted by her troubled past, is running from her family. Shan, having fled the Sri Lankan civil war, is desperate to find his.

But when Tuli's guidance leads them all into dangerous territory, and the extent of his mysterious operation unravels, each is faced with an impossible moral choice. In a world where the law is against you, how far would you be willing to lie for a chance to live?

John Lanchester

The Wall (Literary). 276 pages.

Kavanagh begins his time patrolling the Wall.

If he's lucky, if nothing goes wrong, he only has to do two years of this. 729 more nights.

The best thing that can happen is that he survives and gets off the Wall and will never have to spend another day of his life anywhere near it.

But what if something did happen - if the Others came, if he had to fight for his life?

Thrilling and heartbreaking, *The Wall* is about a troubled world you will recognise as your own - and about what might be found when all is lost.

Lee Lawrence

The Louder I Will Sing (Non-Fiction). 272 pages.

On 28th September 1985, Lee Lawrence's mother Cherry Groce was wrongly shot by police during a raid on her Brixton home. The bullet shattered her spine and she never walked again. In the chaos that followed, 11-year-old Lee watched in horror as the News falsely pronounced his mother dead. In Brixton, already a powder keg because of the deep racism that the community was experiencing, it was the spark needed to trigger two days of rioting that saw buildings brought down by petrol bombs, cars torched and shops looted. But for Lee, it was a spark that lit a flame that would burn for the next 30 years as he fought to get the police to recognise their wrongdoing. His life had changed forever: he was now his mother's carer, he had seen first-hand the prejudice that existed in his country, and he was at the mercy of a society that was working against him. And yet that flame - for justice, for peace, for change - kept him going.

Elmore Leonard

Get Shorty (Crime). 275 pages.

Life plying your trade as a loan shark has its share of ups and downs, but nowhere more than in Hollywood, as Chili Palmer finds out in this lively crime caper from a master of the genre. Filmed 1995 with John Travolta.

Jem Lester

Shtum (Literary). 368 pages.

Ben Jewell has hit breaking point. His ten-year-old son, Jonah, has never spoken. So when Ben and Jonah are forced to move in with Ben's elderly father, three generations of men - one who can't talk; two who won't - are thrown together. As Ben battles single fatherhood, a string of well-meaning social workers and his own demons, he learns some difficult home truths. Jonah, blissful in his ignorance, becomes the prism through which all the complicated strands of personal identity, family history and misunderstanding are finally untangled.

Erin Litteken

The Memory Keeper of Kyiv (Historical). 338 pages.

In the 1930s, Stalin's activists marched through the Soviet Union, espousing the greatness of collective farming. It was the first step in creating a man-made famine that, in Ukraine, stole almost 4 million lives. Inspired by the history the world forgot, and the Russian government denies, Erin Litteken reimagines their story.

Attica Locke

The Cutting Season (Thriller). 404 pages.

When a murdered woman is found in the grounds of a Louisiana plantation house-cum museum, the police investigation soon reveals some unsavoury truths about the house's history. An atmospheric and thought-provoking whodunit.

Sean Lusk

The Second Sight of Zachary Cloudesley (Historical). 368 pages.

Leadenhall Street, London, 1754.

Raised amongst the cogs and springs of his father's workshop, Zachary Cloudesley has grown up surrounded by strange and enchanting clockwork automata. He is a happy child, beloved by his father Abel and the workmen who help bring his father's creations to life.

He is also the bearer of an extraordinary gift; at the touch of a hand, Zachary can see into the hearts and minds of the people he meets.

But then a near-fatal accident will take Zachary away from the workshop and his family. His father will have to make a journey that he will never return from. And, years later, only Zachary can find out what happened.

Helen MacDonald

H is for Hawk (Non-fiction). 283 pages.

As a child, Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer, years later, when her father died and she was struck deeply by grief, she became obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. Winner of the Costa Book of the Year and the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction.

Bernard Maclaverty

Midwinter Break (Literary). 208 pages.

A retired couple, Gerry and Stella Gilmore, fly to Amsterdam for a midwinter break. A holiday to refresh the senses, to see the sights and to generally take stock of what remains of their lives. But amongst the wintry streets and icy canals we see their relationship fracturing beneath the surface. And when memories re-emerge of a troubled time in their native Ireland things begin to fall apart. As their midwinter break comes to an end, we understand how far apart they are - and can only watch as they struggle to save themselves.

Sally Magnusson

The Sealwoman's Gift (Historical). 362 pages.

1627. In a notorious historical event, pirates raided the coast of Iceland and abducted 400 people into slavery in Algiers. Among them a pastor, his wife, and their children. In her acclaimed debut novel Sally Magnusson imagines what history does not record: the experience of Asta, the pastor's wife, as she faces her losses with the one thing left to her - the stories from home - and forges an ambiguous bond with the man who bought her..

Hilary Mantel **NEW TITLE**

Mantel Pieces (Non-Fiction). 327 pages.

In 1987, when Hilary Mantel was first published in the London Review of Books, she wrote to the editor, Karl Miller, 'I have no critical training whatsoever, so I am forced to be more brisk and breezy than scholarly.' This collection of twenty reviews, essays and pieces of memoir from the next three decades, tells the story of what happened next.

Her subjects range far and wide: Robespierre and Danton, the Hite report, Saudi Arabia where she lived for four years in the 1980s, the Bulger case, John Osborne, the Virgin Mary as well as the pop icon Madonna, a brilliant examination of Helen Duncan, Britain's last witch. There are essays about Jane Boleyn, Charles Brandon, Christopher Marlowe and Margaret Pole, which display the astonishing insight into the Tudor mind we are familiar with from the bestselling Wolf Hall Trilogy. Her famous lecture, 'Royal Bodies', which caused a media frenzy, explores the place of royal women in society and our imagination. Here too are some of her LRB diaries, including her first meeting with her stepfather and a confrontation with a circus strongman.

Constantly illuminating, always penetrating and often very funny, interleaved with letters and other ephemera gathered from the archive, Mantel Pieces is an irresistible selection from one of our greatest living writers.

Jon McGregor

Reservoir 13 (Literary). 336 pages.

Midwinter in the early years of this century. A teenage girl on holiday has gone missing in the hills in the heart of England. The villagers are called up to join the search, fanning out across the moors as the police set up roadblocks and a crowd of news reporters descends on their usually quiet home.

Meanwhile, there is work that must still be done: cows milked, fences repaired, stone cut, pints poured, beds made, sermons written, a pantomime rehearsed. The search for the missing girl goes on, but so does everyday life. Reservoir 13 tells the story of many lives haunted by one family's loss.

William McIlvanney

Laidlaw (Crime). 293 pages.

When a young woman is found brutally murdered in Kelvingrove Park, only one man stands a chance of finding her killer. Jack Laidlaw. He is a man of contrasts, ravaged by inner demons but driven by a deep compassion for the violent criminals in Glasgow's underworld. But will Laidlaw's unorthodox methods get him to the killer in time, when the victim's father is baying for blood?

Darragh McKeon

All That is Solid Melts into Air (Literary). 388 pages.

For a child piano prodigy, a dissident factory worker, a broken-hearted surgeon and unknowing others, the disaster that is Chernobyl will change their lives forever . . .

Thomas McMullan **NEW TITLE**

The Last Good Man (Literary). 307 pages.

Duncan Peck has travelled alone to Dartmoor in search of his cousin. He has come from the city, where the fires are always burning.

In his cousin's village, Peck finds a place with tea rooms and barley fields, a church and a schoolhouse. Out here, the people live an honest life – and if there's any trouble, they have a way to settle it. They sit in the shadow of a vast wall, inscribed with strange messages. Anyone can write on the wall, anonymously, about their neighbours, about any wrongdoing that might hurt the community. Then comes the reckoning.

The stranger from the city causes a stir. He has not been there long before the village wakes up to the most unspeakable accusation; sentences daubed on the wall that will detonate the darkest of secrets.

Peace Adzo Medie **NEW TITLE**

His Only Wife (Literary). 278 pages.

Afi Tekple, a bright young seamstress from a small town in Ghana, is convinced by her family to marry a man she has never met. Elikem Ganyo is a wealthy businessman whose family has chosen Afi in the hope that she will distract him from a relationship with another woman they think is inappropriate. The fact that she doesn't know Elikem seems a small price to pay for a marriage that offers her family financial security and provides the key to a lifestyle she has always wanted. But when Afi arrives in Accra, Ghana's gleaming capital, she realises her fairy-tale ending might not be all she had hoped for...

Tom Michell

Penguin Lessons (Non-fiction). 227 pages.

Juan Salvador the penguin is rescued by Tom Michell from an oil slick in Uruguay. A pet is the last thing he needs but it's the start of a beautiful friendship as the little penguin transforms the lives of all he meets.

Derek Miller

Norwegian By Night (Thriller). 292 pages.

82-years-old, and recently widowed, Sheldon Horowitz has grudgingly moved to Oslo, with his grand-daughter and her Norwegian husband. An ex-Marine, he talks often to the ghosts of his past - the friends he lost in the Pacific and the son who followed him into the US Army, and to his death in Vietnam. When Sheldon witnesses the murder of a woman in his apartment complex, he rescues her six-year-old son and decides to run.

Mark Mills

Waiting for Doggo (Literary). 213 pages.

No-one ever called Dan a pushover. But then no-one ever called him fast-track either. He likes driving slowly, playing Sudoku on his iPhone, swapping one scruffy jumper for another. He's been with Clara for four years and he's been perfectly happy; but now she's left him, leaving nothing but a long letter filled with incriminations and a small, white, almost hairless dog, named Doggo. So now Dan is single, a man without any kind of partner whether working or in love. He's just one reluctant dog owner. Find a new home for him, that's the plan. Come on...everyone knows the old adage about the best laid plans and besides, Doggo is one special kind of a four legged friend...and an inspiration.

Heather Morris

The Tattooist of Auschwitz (Historical). 320 pages.

This novel is based on the true story of Lale and Gita Sokolov, two Slovakian Jews, who survived Auschwitz and eventually made their home in Australia. In that terrible place, Lale was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival - literally scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust.

Boyd Morrison

The Loch Ness Legacy (Thriller). 438 pages.

What did Charles Darwin discover at Loch Ness in 1827 that could cause worldwide repercussions nearly two centuries on? Find out in this action adventure from the author of 'The Noah's Ark Quest'.

Sarah Moss

Ghost Wall (Literary). 160 pages.

Seventeen-year-old Silvie is on a camp in rural Northumberland with her father and a group of scholars, led by an archaeologist with an interest in Iron Age sacrifice. As Silvie glimpses new freedoms with the students, her relationship with her father deteriorates, until the haunting rites of the past begin to bleed into the present.

Jojo Moyes

The Giver of Stars (Literary). 437 pages.

England, late 1930s, and Alice Wright - restless, stifled - makes an impulsive decision to marry wealthy American Bennett van Cleve and leave her home and family behind. But stuffy, disapproving Baileyville, Kentucky, where her husband favours work over his wife, and is dominated by his overbearing father, is not the adventure - or the escape - that she hoped for. That is, until she meets Margery O'Hare - daughter of a notorious felon and a troublesome woman the town wishes to forget. Margery's on a mission to spread the wonder of books and reading to the poor and lost - and she needs Alice's help. Trekking alone under big open skies, through wild mountain forests, Alice, Margery and their fellow sisters of the trail discover freedom, friendship and a life to call their own.

Sayaka Murata

Convenience Store Woman (Literary). 176 pages.

This Akutagawa-prize winning novel follows the everyday activities of an unconventional woman who finds happiness in convenience store work, despite mounting familial pressure to marry or move along to a different kind of life.

Benjamin Myers

The Gallows Pole (Historical). 384 pages.

From his remote moorland home, David Hartley assembles a gang of weavers and land-workers to embark upon a criminal enterprise that will capsize the economy and become the biggest fraud in British history. They are the Cragg Vale Coiners and their business is 'clipping' - the forging of coins, a treasonous offence punishable by death. When an excise officer vows to bring them down and with the industrial age set to change the face of England forever, Hartley's empire begins to crumble. Forensically assembled, *The Gallows Pole* is a true story of resistance and a rarely told alternative history of the North.

Lars Mytting

Sixteen Trees of the Somme (Literary). 403 pages.

Edvard grows up on a remote mountain farmstead in Norway with his taciturn grandfather, Sverre. The death of his parents, when he was three years old, has always been shrouded in mystery - he has never been told how or where it took place and has only a distant memory of his mother.

But he knows that the fate of his grandfather's brother, Einar, is somehow bound up with this mystery. One day a coffin is delivered for his grandfather long before his death - a meticulous, beautiful piece of craftsmanship. Perhaps Einar is not dead after all.

Edvard's desperate quest to unlock the family's tragic secrets takes him on a long journey - from Norway to the Shetlands, and to the battlefields of France - to the discovery of a very unusual inheritance. *The Sixteen Trees of the Somme* is about the love of wood and finding your own self, a beautifully intricate and moving tale that spans an entire century.

Tarashea Nesbit

Wives of Los Alamos (Historical). 232 pages.

Contentious, gripping and intimate, *The Wives of Los Alamos* is a personal tale of one of the most momentous events in our history. A fascinating and disturbing insight into the secret life of the Los Alamos families living under the shadow of the creation of the atomic bomb.

Sylvain Neuvel

Sleeping Giants (Science Fiction). 377 pages.

A girl named Rose is riding her new bike near her home in South Dakota, when she falls through the earth. She wakes up at the bottom of a square-shaped hole, its walls glowing with intricate carvings. But the firemen who come to save her peer down upon something even stranger: a little girl in the palm of a giant metal hand. 17 years later, the mystery of the bizarre artifact remains unsolved - the object's origins, architects, and purpose unknown. But some can never stop searching for answers.

Celeste Ng

Little Fires Everywhere (Literary). 388 pages.

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is meticulously planned - from the layout of the winding roads, to the colours of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren - an enigmatic artist and single mother - who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than just tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past, and a disregard for the rules that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town - and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at an unexpected and devastating cost . . .

Edna O'Brien

Little Red Chairs (Literary). 299 pages.

When a man who calls himself a faith healer arrives in a small, west-coast Irish village, the community is soon under the spell of this charismatic stranger from the Balkans. One woman in particular, Fidelma McBride, becomes enthralled in a fatal attraction that leads to unimaginable consequences.

Maggie O'Farrell **NEW TITLE**

Hamnet (Historical). 372 pages.

On a summer's day in 1596, a young girl in Stratford-upon-Avon takes to her bed with a sudden fever. Her twin brother, Hamnet, searches everywhere for help. Why is nobody at home?

Their mother, Agnes, is over a mile away, in the garden where she grows medicinal herbs. Their father is working in London.

Neither parent knows that Hamnet will not survive the week.

Hamnet is a novel inspired by the son of a famous playwright: a boy whose life has been all but forgotten, but whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays ever written.

Andrew O'Hagan

Mayflies (Literary). 304 pages.

In the summer of 1986, James and Tully ignite a friendship based on music, films and the rebel spirit. With school over, they rush towards a magical weekend of youthful excess in Manchester played out against the greatest soundtrack ever recorded. And there a vow is made: to go at life differently. Thirty years on, the phone rings. Tully has news.

Michael Ondaatje

The English Patient (Literary). 324 pages.

The final curtain is closing on the Second World War and in an abandoned Italian village, Hana, a nurse, tends to her sole remaining patient. Rescued from a burning plane, the anonymous Englishman is damaged beyond recognition and haunted by painful memories.

The only clue Hana has to unlocking his past is the one thing he clung on to through the fire – a copy of The Histories by Herodotus, covered with handwritten notes detailing a tragic love affair.

Michael Ondaatje

Warlight (Historical). 304 pages.

It is 1945, and London is still reeling from the Blitz. 14-year-old Nathaniel and his sister, Rachel, are apparently abandoned by their parents, left in the care of an enigmatic figure named The Moth. They suspect he might be a criminal, and grow both more convinced and less concerned as they get to know his eccentric crew of friends: men and women all who seem determined to protect Rachel and Nathaniel. But are they really what and who they claim to be? A dozen years later, Nathaniel journeys through recollection, reality and imagination to uncover all he didn't know or understand in that time, to piece together a story that feels something like the truth.

Mirabel Osler

A Gentle Plea for Chaos (Non-fiction). 181 pages.

Laced with horticultural musings and titbits of garden wisdom, this delightful little book describes the trials and tribulations of designing and creating one of Shropshire's most notable gardens.

Michael Palin **NEW TITLE**

Great-Uncle Harry (Non-fiction). 336 pages.

From the time, many years ago, when Michael Palin first heard that his grandfather had a brother, Harry, he was determined to find out more about him. The quest that followed involved hundreds of hours of painstaking detective work. Michael dug out every bit of family gossip and correspondence he could. He studied every relevant official document. He tracked down what remained of his great-uncle Harry's diaries and letters, and pored over photographs of First World War battle scenes to see whether Harry appeared in any of them. He walked the route Harry took on that fatal, final day of his life amid the mud of northern France. And as he did so, a life that had previously existed in the shadows was revealed to him.

Great-Uncle Harry is an utterly compelling account of an ordinary man who led an extraordinary life. A blend of biography, history, travelogue and personal memoir this is Michael Palin at his very finest.

Orhan Pamuk

The Red-Haired Woman (Literary). 288 pages.

On the outskirts of a town thirty miles from Istanbul, a master well-digger and his young apprentice are hired to find water on a barren plain. As they struggle in the summer heat, excavating metre by metre, the two will develop a father/son bond that neither has known before. But in the nearby town, where they spend their evenings, the boy will find an irresistible diversion. The Red-Haired Woman, an alluring member of a travelling theatre group, catches his eye, and she seems as fascinated by him as he is by her. But in his distraction a horrible accident occurs, and he will spend his life unaware of the outcome, or who the Red-Haired Woman was, until many years later.

Mike Parker **NEW TITLE**

All the Wide Border (Non-fiction). 304 pages.

All the Wide Border is a personal journey through the places, amongst the people, and across the divides of the border between England and Wales. Taking in some of our loveliest landscapes, and our darkest secrets, this is a region of immeasurable wonder and interest. It is here that the deepest roots and thorniest paradoxes of Britishness lie. The border between the countries, even as a concept, is ragged, jagged and many-layered.

Simon Parker

Riding Out (Non-fiction). 320 pages.

In March 2020, as Britain entered its first lockdown, Simon Parker's life fell apart; his travel journalism career vanished overnight and shortly afterwards he received the tragic news that a close friend had died. With a long-suppressed anxiety disorder starting to rear its head, he turned to the only therapies he knew and trusted: travel and exercise.

Setting off on his bike from the northernmost point of Shetland with only a sleeping bag and a camping stove, Simon would end up cycling 3,427 miles around Britain. En route, he would meet hundreds of resilient Britons, who were all, in their own way, riding out the storm just like he was. Even in his gloomiest moments he began to see that a chink of light was never too far away.

Priya Parmar

Vanessa and her Sister (Literary). 356 pages.

It can break your heart to have a sister like Virginia Woolf. In the vein of *The Paris Wife* and the BBC's *Life in Squares*: a compelling and dazzling story of sisters and art, love and betrayal - of Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf.

Laline Paull

Bees (Literary). 344 pages.

Born into the lowest class of her society, Flora 717 is a sanitation bee, only fit to clean her orchard hive. But Flora is not like other bees. This is the story of a heroine who changes her destiny and her world. This thrilling and imaginative novel was shortlisted for the 2015 Baileys Prize.

Sarah Pearse **NEW TITLE**

The Sanatorium (Thriller). 427 pages.

A beautiful, eerie hotel in the Swiss Alps, recently converted from an abandoned sanatorium, is the last place Detective Elin Warner wants to be. But her estranged brother has invited her there for his engagement party, and she feels she has no choice but to accept.

Arriving in the midst of a threatening storm, Elin immediately feels on edge. And things only get worse when they wake the next morning to find her brother's fiancée is missing. With access to the hotel cut off, the guests begin to panic.

But this is only the first disappearance. Everyone's in danger - and anyone could be next . . .

Charlotte Philby

Edith and Kim (Historical). 384 pages.

In June 1934, Kim Philby met his Soviet handler, the spy Arnold Deutsch. The woman who introduced them was called Edith Tudor-Hart. She changed the course of 20th century history. Then she was written out of it.

Drawing on the Secret Intelligence Files on Edith Tudor-Hart, along with the private archive letters of Kim Philby, this finely worked, evocative and beautifully tense novel – by the granddaughter of Kim Philby – tells the story of the woman behind the Third Man.

Matthew Plamplin

Will & Tom (Historical). 321 pages.

Alive with intrigue and artistic rivalry, *Will & Tom* offers a glimpse into the early life of Britain's greatest painter, J M W Turner, through the story of a complicated, vibrant friendship and how it is tested by the dark dynamic of art and power.

Sylvia Plath

The Bell Jar (Literary). 234 pages.

With hopes of a glamorous job in New York, life seems full of promise to Esther Greenwood, but soon leads her to the brink of suicide. The sharply observed and darkly humorous only novel from the poet renowned for her tragic early death

Poetry Contemporary

(Poetry)

A collection of contemporary poetry. Take your pick from established UK poets including Jackie Kay, Simon Armitage and Tony Walsh or sample new collections by Raymond Antrobus, Lavinia Greenlaw and more. Terrific anthologies by the Emergency Poet and Poetry Pharmacy are also included for instant poetic prescriptions

Poetry Lucky Dip 1

(Poetry).

Take your pick from a selection of poetry books to suit all tastes.

Poetry Lucky Dip 2

(Poetry).

Take your pick from a second selection of poetry books to suit all tastes.

Poetry Lucky Dip 3

(Poetry)

Take your pick from a third selection of poetry books to suit all tastes.

Laura Purcell

Silent Companions (Horror). 384 pages.

Newly married, newly widowed Elsie is sent to see out her pregnancy at her late husband's crumbling country estate, The Bridge.

With her new servants resentful and the local villagers actively hostile, Elsie only has her husband's awkward cousin for company. Or so she thinks. For inside her new home lies a locked room, and beyond that door lies a two-hundred-year-old diary and a deeply unsettling painted wooden figure – a Silent Companion – that bears a striking resemblance to Elsie herself...

Helen Rappaport

Race to Save the Romanovs: The Truth Behind the Secret Plans to rescue Russia's Imperial Family (Non-fiction). 400 pages.

On 17 July 1918, the whole of the Russian Imperial Family was murdered. There were no miraculous escapes. The former Tsar Nicholas, his wife Alexandra, and their children – Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Alexey – were all tragically gunned down in a blaze of bullets.

On the 100-year-anniversary of these brutal murders, historian Helen Rappaport set out to uncover why the Romanovs' European royal relatives and the Allied governments failed to save them.

Nick Rennison

Carver's Quest (Crime). 436 pages.

A London gentleman and his trusty manservant tumble headlong into a tale of adventure, murder and blackmail in this first title in a lively new series. Ideal for fans of Victorian high-jinks.

Sally Rooney

Normal People (Literary). 266 pages.

Connell and Marianne grow up in the same small town in the west of Ireland, but the similarities end there. In school, Connell is popular and well-liked, while Marianne is a loner. But when the two strike up a conversation - awkward but electrifying - something life-changing begins. *Normal People* is a story of mutual fascination, friendship and love. It takes us from that first conversation to the years beyond, in the company of two people who try to stay apart but find they can't.

Diana Rosie

Alberto's Lost Birthday (Historical). 289 pages.

A little boy discovers that his grandfather, Alberto, doesn't have a birthday he is determined to help him find it. As an orphan during the Spanish Civil War, Alberto lost all knowledge of his childhood so the pair set off on a quest journeying back into Alberto's past.

Hannah Rothschild

The Improbability of Love (Literary). 496 pages.

Annie McDee stumbles across a dirty painting in a junk shop. Soon she finds herself drawn unwillingly into the tumultuous London art world, populated by exiled Russian oligarchs, avaricious Sheikhs, desperate auctioneers and unscrupulous dealers, all scheming to get their hands on her painting - a lost eighteenth-century masterpiece called 'The Improbability of Love'. Shortlisted for the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction.

Alyson Rudd

The First Time Lauren Pailing Died (Literary). 384 pages.

Lauren Pailing is born in the sixties, and a child of the seventies. She is thirteen years old the first time she dies.

Lauren Pailing is a teenager in the eighties, becomes a Londoner in the nineties. And each time she dies, new lives begin for the people who loved her – while Lauren enters a brand new life, too.

But in each of Lauren's lives, a man called Peter Stanning disappears. And, in each of her lives, Lauren sets out to find him.

And so it is that every ending is also a beginning. And so it is that, with each new beginning, Peter Stanning inches closer to finally being found...

Richard Russo

On Helwig Street (Non-fiction). 243 pages.

When Richard Russo set off from his mid-century hometown for university, he didn't realise his ambitious mother would be beginning life's great adventure with him. A funny and poignant memoir from a Pulitzer prize-winning author.

Robert Ryan

Dead Man's Land (Crime). 467 pages.

Someone is killing British soldiers in the trenches of Flanders and it's not the enemy. Serving his country as a medical officer, Doctor Watson of Sherlock Holmes fame, brings his powers of deduction into play in this original tribute to Conan Doyle.

Sunjeev Sahota

The Year of the Runaways (Literary). 480 pages.

The Year of the Runaways tells of the bold dreams and daily struggles of an unlikely family thrown together by circumstance. Thirteen young men live in a house in Sheffield, each in flight from India and in desperate search of a new life. Sweeping between India and England, and between childhood and the present day this is a story of dignity in the face of adversity and the ultimate triumph of the human spirit.

Saskia Sarginson

Twins (Literary). 354 pages.

What could lead twin sisters, the best of friends as children, to live such strikingly separate lives as adults? Find out in this gripping psychological debut from a promising British author.

Dorothy L Sayers

The Documents in the Case (Crime). 260 pages.

From the creator of Lord Peter Wimsey, this ingenious murder mystery is presented entirely in the form of letters, newspaper clippings and court reports.

Sarah Schmidt

See What I Have Done (Thriller). 342 pages.

Just after 11am on 4th August 1892, the bodies of Andrew and Abby Borden are discovered. He's found on the sitting room sofa, she upstairs on the bedroom floor, both murdered with an axe. It is younger daughter Lizzie who is first on the scene, so it is Lizzie who the police first question, but there are others in the household with stories to tell: older sister Emma, Irish maid Bridget, the girls' Uncle John, and a boy who knows more than anyone realises. This is a chilling re-imagining of the unsolved American true crime case of the Lizzie Borden murders.

Lisa See

China Dolls (Literary). 376 pages.

In 1938 three showgirls become friends while working in the exclusive Oriental nightclub in San Francisco's Forbidden City. In a heartbeat, everything changes. The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor and paranoia, suspicion, and a shocking act of betrayal, threaten to destroy their lives.

Robert Seethaler

The Tobacconist (Literary). 234 pages.

When seventeen-year-old Franz exchanges his home in the idyllic beauty of the Austrian lake district for the bustle of Vienna, his homesickness quickly dissolves amidst the thrum of the city. In his role as apprentice to the elderly tobacconist Otto Trsnyek, he will soon be supplying the great and good of Vienna with their newspapers and cigarettes. Among the regulars is a Professor Freud, whose predilection for cigars and occasional willingness to dispense romantic advice will forge a bond between him and young Franz.

It is 1937. In a matter of months Germany will annex Austria and the storm that has been threatening to engulf the little tobacconist will descend, leaving the lives of Franz, Otto and Professor Freud irredeemably changed.

Samuel Selvon

Lonely Londoners (Classic). 160 pages.

At Waterloo Station, hopeful new arrivals from the West Indies step off the boat train, ready to start afresh in 1950s London. There, homesick Moses Aloetta, who has already lived in the city for years, meets Henry 'Sir Galahad' Oliver and shows him the ropes. In this strange, cold and foggy city where the natives can be less than friendly at the sight of a black face, has Galahad met his Waterloo? Both devastating and funny, 'Lonely Londoners' is an unforgettable account of immigrant experience.

Diane Setterfield

Bellman and Black (Horror). 388 pages.

As a boy, William Bellman commits one small cruel act that appears to have unforeseen and terrible consequences. Tragedy strikes and a bargain has to be struck. Bellman and Black is born.

Elif Shafak

The Forty Rules of Love (Literary). 368 pages.

Ella Rubinstein has a husband, three teenage children, and a pleasant home. Everything that should make her confident and fulfilled. Yet there is an emptiness at the heart of Ella's life - an emptiness once filled by love. So when Ella reads a manuscript about the thirteenth-century Sufi poet Rumi and Shams of Tabriz, and his forty rules of life and love, her world is turned upside down. She embarks on a journey to meet the mysterious author of this work. It is a quest infused with Sufi mysticism and verse, taking Ella and us into an exotic world where faith and love are heartbreakingly explored...

Kamila Shamsie

Best of Friends (Literary). 336 pages.

Maryam and Zahra: In 1988 Karachi, two fourteen-year-old girls are a decade into their friendship, sharing in-jokes, secrets and a love for George Michael. As Pakistan's dictatorship falls and a woman comes to power, the world suddenly seems full of possibilities. Elated by the change in the air, they make a snap decision at a party. That night, everything goes wrong, and the two girls are powerless to change the outcome.

Zahra and Maryam: In present-day London, two influential women remain bound together by loyalties, disloyalties, and the memory of that night, which echoes through the present in unexpected ways. Now both have power; and both have very different ideas of how to wield it. Their friendship has always felt unbreakable; can it be undone by one decision?

Lionel Shriver

Property: A Collection (Short Stories). 336 pages.

This landmark publication, the first collection of stories from a master of the form, explores the idea of "property" in both senses of the word: real estate, and stuff. These sharp, brilliantly imaginative pieces illustrate how our possessions act as proxies for ourselves, and how tussles over ownership articulate the power dynamics of our relationships. In Shriver's world, we may possess people and objects and places, but in turn they possess us.

Bapsi Sidhwa

The Crow Eaters (Literary). 290 pages.

Seeking capitalist ventures and fortune, Faredoon 'Freddy' Junglewalla moves his family - his pregnant wife, children and belligerent mother-in-law - from their ancestral village in rural India to the bustling metropolis of Lahore. Welcomed by the small but tight-knit Parsi community, Freddy establishes a booming business and his family soon become one of the most respected in Lahore. It seems that the only thing holding Freddy back is his sizeable and burdensome mother-in-law. As his family grows, and events - funny, tragic and life-changing - occur, Freddy's reach permeates the wider country and an intricate portrait of colonial India is revealed.

Alan Sillitoe **NEW TITLE**

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning (Classic). 219 pages.

This cult classic of working class life in post-war Nottingham follows the exploits of rebellious factory worker Arthur Seaton.

Working all day at a lathe leaves Arthur Seaton with energy to spare in the evenings. A hard-drinking, hard-fighting hooligan, he knows what he wants, and he's sharp enough to get it.

Before long, his carryings-on with a couple of married women become the stuff of local gossip. But then one evening he meets a young girl and life begins to look less simple...

Adam Silvera

History is All You Left Me (Literary - Young Adult). 294 pages.

OCD-afflicted seventeen-year-old, Griffin, has just lost his first love - his best friend, ex-boyfriend and the boy he believed to be his ultimate life partner - in a drowning accident. In a desperate attempt to hold onto every last piece of the past, a broken Griffin forges a friendship with Theo's new college boyfriend, Jackson. And Griffin will stop at nothing to learn every detail of Theo's new college life, and ultimate death. But as the grieving pair grows closer, readers will question Griffin's own version of the truth.

Curtis Sittenfeld

Rodham (Literary). 432 pages.

Smart, diligent, and a bit plain, that's the general consensus. Then Hillary goes to college, and her star rises. At Yale Law School, she continues to be a leader - and catches the eye of driven, handsome and charismatic Bill. But when he asks her to marry him, Hillary gives him a firm No.

How might things have turned out for them, for America, for the world itself, if Hillary Rodham had really turned down Bill Clinton?

Ali Smith

How to be Both (Literary). 371 pages.

A novel about the versatility of art where two tales of love and injustice twist into a singular yarn. Which story is read first depends on which copy is being read. Winner of several prizes including the 2014 Costa and 2015 Baileys Prize.

Tom Rob Smith

Child 44 (Thriller). 496 pages.

Moscow under Stalin 1953. Inspired by a real-life investigation Child 44 is a relentless story of love, hope and bravery in a totalitarian world.

Carrie Snyder

Girl Runner (Literary). 363 pages.

Part historical page-turner, part contemporary mystery, an engaging and endearing story about family, ambition, athletics and the dedicated pursuit of one's passions.

Zoe Somerville

The Night of the Flood (Thriller). 352 pages.

An atmospheric literary thriller set during the devastating North Sea flood of 1953, in which a love triangle turns murderous. As summer turns to winter, a devastating storm hits the coast, flooding the land and altering everything in its path. In this new, watery landscape, Verity's tangled web of secrets, lies and passion will bring about a crime that will change all their lives forever.

Kate Spicer

Lost Dog (Non-fiction). 288 pages.

Kate is a middle aged woman trying to steer some order into a life that is going off the rails. When she adopts a lurcher called Wolfy, the shabby rescue dog saves her from herself. But when the dog disappears, it is up to Kate to hit the streets of London and find him. Will she save him, as he has saved her - or will she lose everything?

As she trudges endlessly calling his name in the hopeless hope she may find him, she runs into other people's landscapes and lives, finding allies amongst psychics, bloggers and mysterious midnight joggers. Trying to find her dog tests her relationship, and her sanity, to its limits – and gets her thinking about her life, and why things have turned out as they have for her.

Francis Spufford

The Child that Books Built (Non-fiction). 211 pages.

Revisiting his favourite children's books, the author recalls the impression they made upon him at the time, and how misfortune led him to be a schoolboy bookworm. A fascinating and poignant memoir.

John Steinbeck **NEW TITLE**

Of Mice and Men (Classic). 105 pages.

Drifters in search of work, George and his childlike friend Lennie, have nothing in the world except the clothes on their back - and a dream that one day they will have some land of their own. Eventually they find work on a ranch in California's Salinas Valley, but their hopes are dashed as Lennie - struggling against extreme cruelty, misunderstanding and feelings of jealousy - becomes a victim of his own strength.

Rebecca Stott

Dark Earth (Historical). 368 pages.

AD 500. An island in the Thames.

Isla has a secret: she has learned her father's sophisticated sword-making skills at a time when even entering a forge is forbidden to women. Her sister, Blue, has a secret, too: at low tide on the night of each new moon, she visits the bones of the mud woman, drowned by the elders of her tribe who wanted to make a lesson of someone who wouldn't hold her tongue.

When the local Seax overlord discovers Isla's secret there is nowhere for the sisters to hide, except across the water to the walled ghost city, Londinium. Here Blue and Isla find sanctuary in an underworld community of squatters, emigrants, travellers and looters, led by the mysterious Crowther, living in an abandoned brothel and bathhouse. But trouble pursues them even into the haunted city.

Kevin Sullivan

The Longest Winter (Historical). 411 pages.

Terry is a British doctor on a mission to rescue a sick child in urgent need of life-saving surgery.

Brad is an American journalist desperately trying to save his reputation following the disasters of his last posting.

Milena is a young woman from Eastern Bosnia who has fled from her home and her husband, seeking refuge from betrayal amid the devastation of besieged Sarajevo.

In the aftermath of the assassination of a government minister, three life stories are intertwined in a dramatic quest for redemption.

Lydia Syson

Mr Peacock's Possessions (Historical). pages.

Oceania 1879. A family of settlers from New Zealand are the sole inhabitants of a remote volcanic island.

For two years they have struggled with the harsh reality of trying to make this unforgiving place a paradise they can call their own. At last, a ship appears.

The six Pacific Islanders on board have travelled eight hundred miles across the ocean in search of work and new horizons. Hopes are high for all, until a vulnerable boy vanishes. In their search for the lost child, settlers and newcomers together uncover far more than they were looking for. The island's secrets force them all to question their deepest convictions.

Kate Tempest

The Bricks that Built the Houses (Literary). 399 pages.

Young Londoners Becky, Harry and Leon are leaving the city in a fourth-hand Ford Cortina with a suitcase full of money. They are also leaving behind Pete, Becky's boyfriend, at his surprise birthday party.

Moving back in time - and into the heart of London - *The Bricks that Built the Houses* explores a cross-section of contemporary urban life with a powerful moral microscope, giving us intimate stories of hidden lives, and showing us that good intentions don't always lead to the right decisions.

Paul Theroux

The Lower River (Literary). 323 pages.

A middle-aged American with fond memories of Africa from time spent there in his youth, returns to find things have gone downhill.

Undaunted, he resolves to stay, but falls prey to local exploiters keen to deprive him of his dollars. An eye-opening exploration of modern Africa.

Sandi Toksvig

Between the Stops: The View of my Life from the Top of the Number 12 Bus (Non-fiction). 320 pages.

This is Sandi Toksvig's autobiography - part memoir, part diary, part travelogue and history all from the top of a double-decker.

Paul Torday

Light Shining in the Forest (Literary). 344 pages.

Newly appointed one of the government's Children's Czars, Norman Stokoe settles into a well-paid position with mostly light ceremonial duties. But with the disappearance of two children, he finds himself very much in the spotlight in this darker than usual tale from the 'Salmon Fishing.' author.

Yusuf Toropov

Jihadi: A Love Story (Thriller). 395 pages.

A former intelligence agent stands accused of terrorism, held without charge in a secret overseas prison.

His memoir is in the hands of a brilliant but erratic psychologist whose annotations paint a much darker picture. As the story unravels, we are forced to assess the truth for ourselves, and decide not only what really happened on one fateful overseas assignment but who is the real terrorist.

Amor Towles

A Gentleman in Moscow (Historical). 480 pages.

In 1922 Count Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal. He is sentenced to house arrest in The Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

Chris Van Tulleken **NEW TITLE**

Ultra-Processed People (Non-Fiction). 416 pages.

We have entered a new 'age of eating' where most of our calories come from an entirely novel set of substances called Ultra-Processed Food, food which is industrially processed and designed and marketed to be addictive. But do we really know what it's doing to our bodies?

Join Chris in his travels through the world of food science and a UPF diet to discover what's really going on. Find out why exercise and willpower can't save us, and what UPF is really doing to our bodies, our health, our weight, and the planet (hint: nothing good).

For too long we've been told we just need to make different choices, when really we're living in a food environment that makes it nigh-on impossible. So this is a book about our rights. The right to know what we eat and what it does to our bodies and the right to good, affordable food.

Salley Vickers

The Gardener (Literary). 304 pages.

Artist, Hassie Days, and her sister, Margot, buy a run down Jacobean house in Hope Wenlock on the Welsh Marches. While Margot continues her London life in high finance, Hassie is left alone to work the large, long-neglected garden. She is befriended by eccentric, sharp-tongued, Miss Foot, who recommends, Murat, an Albanian migrant, made to feel out of place among the locals, to help Hassie in the garden. As she works the garden in Murat's peaceful company, Hassie ruminates on her past life: the sibling rivalry that tainted her childhood and the love affair that left her with painful, unanswered questions. But as she begins to explore the history of the house and the mysterious nearby wood, old hurts begin to fade as she experiences the healing power of nature and discovers other worlds.

Éric Vuillard

The Order of the Day (Historical). 160 pages.

The Order of the Day tells the story of the pivotal meetings which took place between the European powers in the run-up to World War Two. What emerges is a fascinating and incredibly moving account of failed diplomacy, broken relationships, and the catastrophic momentum which led to conflict. The titans of German industry – set to prosper under the Nazi government – gather to lend their support to Adolf Hitler. The Austrian Chancellor realizes too late that he has wandered into a trap, as Hitler delivers the ultimatum that will lay the groundwork for Germany's annexation of Austria. Winston Churchill joins Neville Chamberlain for a farewell luncheon held in honour of Joachim von Ribbentrop: German Ambassador to England, soon to be Foreign Minister in the Nazi government, and future defendant at the Nuremberg trials. This unforgettable novel tells the tragic story of how the actions of a few powerful men brought the world to the brink of war.

Ocean Vuong

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous (Literary). 242 pages.

'On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous' is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born - a history whose epicentre is rooted in Vietnam - and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity.

Robert Webb

Come Again (Literary). 304 pages.

All hell has broken loose in Kate Marsden's life. Her husband has died, she's lost her job and now she's pushed the last of her friends away. Then one day, she wakes up in the wrong body - and the wrong year. She's eighteen again and it's her first day of university. Which means today's the day she'll meet Luke, her future husband, for the first time.

If they can fall in love again, Kate might just be able to save him second time around.

Andy Weir

The Martian (Science Fiction). 384 pages

Robinson Crusoe on Mars - a survival story for the 21st Century. A tautly written white-knuckle ride with gallows humour and many twists and turns. The Sunday Times bestseller behind a major film from Ridley Scott.

Tara Westover

Educated (Non-fiction). 384 pages.

Tara Westover grew up preparing for the end of the world. She was never put in school, never taken to the doctor. She did not even have a birth certificate until she was nine years old.

At sixteen, to escape her father's radicalism and a violent older brother, Tara left home. What followed was a struggle for self-invention, a journey that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it.

Colson Whitehead

Underground Railroad (Historical). 366 pages.

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape.

Charmaine Wilkerson

Black Cake (Historical). 432 pages.

Eleanor Bennett won't let her secrets die with her . . .

When Eleanor's estranged children Benny and Byron reunite for her funeral, they receive an unexpected inheritance. First, a traditional Caribbean black cake, to remind them of their roots. Second, the story of a decades-old murder that shatters everything they thought they knew about their mother. But as Benny and Byron unravel their family's troubled past, will the truth push them further apart? Or will it reunite them and fulfil Eleanor's final wish?

Kate Williams

The Pleasures of Men (Thriller). 391 pages.

With a serial killer stalking young women in London's East End, Catherine, herself a potential victim, becomes unhealthily obsessed with the dead girls and their fate. An atmospheric Victorian thriller.

Tara June Winch

The Yield (Literary). 352 pages.

Knowing that he will soon die, Albert "Poppy" Gondiwindi has one final task he must fulfill. A member of the indigenous Wiradjuri tribe, he has spent his adult life in Prosperous House and the town of Massacre Plains, a small enclave on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. Before he takes his last breath, Poppy is determined to pass on the language of his people, the traditions of his ancestors, and everything that was ever remembered by those who came before him.

After his passing, Poppy's granddaughter, August, returns home from Europe, where she has lived the past ten years, to attend his burial. Her overwhelming grief is compounded by the pain, anger, and sadness of memory—of growing up in poverty before her mother's incarceration, of the racism she and her people endured, of the mysterious disappearance of her sister when they were children; an event that has haunted her and changed her life. Her homecoming is bittersweet as she confronts the love of her kin and news that Prosperous is to be repossessed by a mining company. Determined to make amends and honour Poppy and her family, she vows to save their land—a quest guided by the voice of her grandfather that leads into the past, the stories of her people, the secrets of the river.

Sarah Winman

Tin Man (Literary). 197 pages.

This novel begins with a painting won in a raffle: 15 sunflowers, hung on the wall by a woman who believes that men and boys are capable of beautiful things. And then there are two boys, Ellis and Michael, who are inseparable. And the boys become men, and then Annie walks into their lives, and it changes nothing and everything.

Raynor Winn

The Salt Path (Non-fiction). pages.

Just days after Raynor learns that Moth, her husband of 32 years, is terminally ill, their home is taken away and they lose their livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they make the brave and impulsive decision to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall.

Carrying only the essentials for survival on their backs, they live wild in the ancient, weathered landscape of cliffs, sea and sky. Yet through every step, every encounter and every test along the way, their walk becomes a remarkable journey.

The Salt Path is an honest and life-affirming true story of coming to terms with grief and the healing power of the natural world.

Elizabeth H Winthrop

Mercy Seat (Historical). 272 pages.

As the sun begins to set over Louisiana one October day in 1943, a young black man faces the final hours of his life: at midnight, eighteen-year-old Willie Jones will be executed by electric chair for raping a white girl - a crime some believe he did not commit. In a tale taut with tension, events unfold hour by hour from the perspectives of nine people involved.

Naomi Wood

Mrs Hemingway (Literary). 317 pages.

Four extraordinary women will learn what it means to love the most famous writer of his generation, and each will be forced to ask herself how far she will go to remain his wife.

Virginia Woolf

Orlando (Classic). 215 pages.

During the course of this extraordinary novel, an Elizabethan nobleman not only transforms into a woman, but is also no older than thirty-six over three centuries later. Intrigued? You will be!

John Wyndham

The Midwich Cuckoos (Science fiction). 220 pages.

In the sleepy English village of Midwich a mysterious silver object appears and the the inhabitants fall unconscious. A day later the object is gone and everyone awakens unharmed - except that all the women in the village are discovered to be pregnant. The Midwich Cuckoos is the classic tale of aliens in our midst, exploring how we respond when confronted by those who are innately superior to us in very conceivable way.

Carlos Ruiz Zafon

The Shadow of the Wind (Literary). 506 pages.

Anyone looking for a literary thriller where books play a major role need look no further than this stirring Spanish tale set in the aftermath of the Civil War, featuring a resourceful boy hero.

Hafsa Zayyan

We Are All Birds of Uganda (Literary). 359 pages.

1960s UGANDA. Hasan is struggling to run his family business following the sudden death of his wife. Just as he begins to see a way forward, a new regime seizes power, and a wave of rising prejudice threatens to sweep away everything he has built.

Present-day LONDON. Sameer, a young high-flying lawyer, senses an emptiness in what he thought was the life of his dreams. Called back to his family home by an unexpected tragedy, Sameer begins to find the missing pieces of himself not in his future plans, but in a past he never knew.